--- “Series of 1883” - 500 Manilla Cheroots - BLACK - 425 x 20 mm. - 4th BABN Contract - 1886 ---

--- *recess printed* by hand press on vertical mesh wove - 4 mm blue control numbers ---

--- perforated 12 - with the 25 mm. “Ottawa” imprint - scanned at 35% scale ---

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4th BABN Contract (1886 - 1892) John McKay records the delivery of 50 copies of “500 Black Cheroots” *recess printed* by hand press.

The black strip obviously did see use, since John McKay records only ***fifty*** copies printed. Tony Hyman, from California, reports that these “Manilla Cheroots” strips were prepared for use on cigars imported from the Philippine Islands. If this was its only purpose - why were any printed in black ink?

McKay also lists 5,750 copies of “500 Blue Cheroots” which makes sense if the issue was intended for use on imported cigars. These black strips are printed on inferior paper, are bent, and poorly perforated. The initial copy **000001** is in the collection - they seem to have been simply a trial batch made with black ink.

4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) 50 recess printed (hand press) **000001** to **000050**

The catalogue lists the recess printed “Series of 1883” black 500 “Manilla Cheroots” strip as follows:

RG-273 - 500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perf, recess printed by hands press on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls, 425 x 20 mm. design, with the 26 mm. “Ottawa” imprint

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★**RG-273 CP** - 500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue control **000001**, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. black Gothic letters - badly bent and yellowed - but with the initial control number

★**RG-273** - 500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perforated 12, *recess printed* on vertical mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue control **000013**, with a second row of horizontal perforations across the top

000001★	RG-273 CP	500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. black Gothic
000013 ★	RG-273	500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, double perforated across the top
000015★	RG-273	500 Manilla Cheroots, black, perf 12, recess printed on vertical mesh wove, double perforated across the center

These early strips all seem to be mis-perforated. The initial strip **000001** has a wide, one-half inch, upper margin, while the later examples listed above exhibit an additional row of perforations within the body of the design. The initial strip is badly bent (I have tried to straighten it in the scan). Was it made as a trial on cheap wove paper? Or since the other copies are on a good quality white wove paper, has it just had a difficult storage life? This initial strip with the black **CANCELLED** is so badly yellowed and brittle that it does not seem to be printed on the same paper as the subsequent strips - which makes little sense considering the control numbering and the John McKay printing total.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 500 cheroots],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
OIctober 12th 2013 - JBH